

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC
APPROVED BY NEA - MR. SOBER
S/S - JETHYDEN
NEA/ARP - MR. COUNTRYMAN
NEA - MR. VELIOTES

-----082369 270414Z /16

P 270403Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 205594

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MASS, SA, LE, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI ASSISTANCE FOR LEBANESE ARMY

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE SECRETARY, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, DESCRIBED THE HELP WE WERE GIVING TO THE LEBANESE IN REBUILDING THEIR ARMY, AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD EXPRESSED SAUDI WILLINGNESS ALSO TO HELP LEBANON IN ITS MILITARY REBUILDING PROGRAM.

2. FOR AMBASSADOR WEST: PLEASE ASCERTAIN WHETHER SAUD WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE AMBASSADOR PARKER IN BEIRUT PASS TO THE LEBANESE THE FACT THAT THE SAUDIS APPEAR TO BE WILLING TO ASSIST LEBANON IN THIS PROGRAM. YOU MIGHT ALSO INDICATE TO SAUD THAT WE ARE STILL GIVING SOME THOUGHTS TO HIS COMMENTS ABOUT POSSIBLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON

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IN THE BROADER CONTEXT HE MENTIONED AND THAT WE WILL BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM SHORTLY.

3. FOR AMBASSADOR PARKER: FYI. SAUD DISPLAYED SOME RELUCTANCE AS REGARDS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND SAID THAT THIS COULD PROBABLY ONLY BE DONE IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF A CONSORTIUM. SAUD WISHED TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH US RE-

GARDS AMOUNTS, REQUIREMENTS AND MODALITIES. TAKING INTO
ACCOUNT THAT WE HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED WHAT WE INTEND
TO DO IN FY 78 AND THAT THE FY 79 PROGRAM WILL NOT INCLUDE
A GRANT AID COMPONENT FOR LEBANON, PLEASE COMMENT ON HOW
WE MIGHT REAPPROACH THE SAUDIS ABOUT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
ALONG THE LINES PROPOSED BY SAUD. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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